

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

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15

ACTION EA-14

INFO OCT-01 ADP-00 NEA-10 IO-13 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03

INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-03 RSC-01 PRS-01 SS-15

USIA-15 ACDA-19 DPW-01 EUR-25 RSR-01 /152 W

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P R 180535Z AUG 73

FM AMEMBASSY SAIGON

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 6130

INFO AMEMBASSY BANKOK

AMEMBASSY PHNOM PENH

AMEMBASSY VIENTIANE

C O N F I D E N T I A L SAIGON 14942

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: MARR, SEATO, SC, VS

SUBJECT: GVN INTEREST IN SEATO

1. FOREIGN MINISTRY, ON BEHALF OF ACTING MINISTER DUC, HAS EXPRESSED INTEREST IN OBTAINING INFORMATION ON SEATO, PRESUMABLY IN CONNECTION WITH SEATO COUNCIL MEETING SCHEDULED LATE SEPTEMBER. DUC SPECIFICALLY WANTED TO KNOW IF SOUTHEAST ASIA COLLECTIVE DEFENSE TREATY COVERED CAMBODIA AND LAOS AND, IF SO, HAD THOSE COUNTRIES RENOUNCED SEATO PROTECTION. MORE GENERALLY, DUC ASKED EXACTLY WHAT THE SEATO "UMBRELLA" NOW COVERS.

2. INFORMATION AVAILABLE SAIGON INDICATES THAT RLG DECLARED IN CONNECTION GENEVA 1962 ACCORDS THAT IT WOULD NOT "RECOGNIZE" PROTECTION BY SEATO OR ANY OTHER ALLIANCE AND THAT CAMBODIA INDICATED "DISINTEREST" IN SEATO PROTECTION ALTHOUGH THIS COMMUNICATION WAS REJECTED BY THE SEATO COUNCIL AT MANILA IN 1964.

3. WE HAVE THEREFORE INFORMED FOREIGN MINISTRY THAT SEATO TREATY IS, OF COURSE, STILL OPERATIVE AND BINDING, THAT OF THE THREE PROTOCOL STATES, THE STATUS OF SOUTH VIETNAM REMAINS CONFIDENTIAL

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UNCHANGED, LAOS AS RESULT OF 1962 CONFERENCE IS NO LONGER

COVERED, AND THE STATUS OF CAMBODIA IS MORE AMBIGUOUS
ALTHOUGH THE ACTION OF THE SEATO COUNCIL IN 1964 SEEMED TO LEAVE
ITS STATUS AS A PROTOCOL STATE UNAFFECTED. WE SAID WE WOULD
INFORM THE MINISTRY IF SUBSEQUENT INQUIRE REVEALED A DIFFERENT
INTERPRETATION WOULD BE CORRECT.
MARTIN

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NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: n/a
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 18 AUG 1973
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: golinofr
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1973SAIGON14942
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS MARTIN
Errors: N/A
Film Number: n/a
From: SAIGON
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1973/newtext/t19730829/aaaaavaw.tel
Line Count: 67
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE
Office: ACTION EA
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators:
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: golinofr
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 06 DEC 2001
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <06-Dec-2001 by shawdg>; APPROVED <28-Dec-2001 by golinofr>
Review Markings:

Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: GVN INTEREST IN SEATO
TAGS: MARR, XC, VS, SEATO
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005